



**Cal OES**  
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE  
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES



# 2014 Drought Response Report

## State Operations Center

### Situation Brief – April 4, 2014



# Situational Summary

Information as of 4/2/14

On January 17, 2014 Governor Edmund G. Brown proclaimed a State of Emergency and directed state officials to take all necessary actions to prepare for drought conditions. The State Operation Center (SOC) is activated to implement objectives in support of the Governor's priorities. The lack of winter rain and snowfall has resulted in extremely dry conditions in many parts of the State. Reservoir levels are down significantly from where they should be on average for this time of year. If conditions continue without substantial rainfall, severe impacts to municipal water supplies, agriculture (plants and livestock) and firefighting capabilities are likely in store for the State over the next few months. Negative economic impacts will also result.

Another storm moved across Northern California on Monday and Tuesday, with low-pressure conditions creating additional storms through Wednesday. Storms will move east beyond California between Wednesday and Friday as a high pressure, dry system builds over the region.

As our state's rainy season nears its end, much of California has received only about half of normal precipitation for this rainy season. Heavy rain and snow would have to fall throughout California most days in April to reach average annual rain and snowfall levels, which is highly unlikely. Even with such precipitation, California would remain in drought conditions, due to low water supplies in reservoirs from the two previous dry years.

The drought could result in severe impacts to the municipal water supplies, wells, agriculture (plants and livestock) and firefighting capabilities for several months. The SOC continues to be activated to monitor the situation statewide, and support regional and local operational areas.

# Situational Summary (cont'd)

Information as of 4/2/14

- The Taskforce continues to meet regularly to take actions that conserve water and coordinate state response to the drought.
- The most recent snowpack survey, conducted on April 1, recorded California snowpack at 24% of normal. The next snowpack survey will be conducted April 1. A more recent update using automated devices shows snowpack at 29% of normal as of March 30.
- DWR has announced that water essential for health and safety will be delivered through the state water project in spite of the zero allocation policy. Deliveries will be boosted if storms produce enough rain and snow to increase reservoir storage and the snow pack.
- Cal OES continues to gather drought-related costs from state agencies and local governments.

# Drought Impacts

## 1. Drinking Water (Information as of 3/11/14)

- The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) is developing questions that will be included in the upcoming Annual Report (AER) to gather data on water conservation and drought preparedness. The data collection will begin 3/10/2014, with a deadline to complete of 4/18/2014.
- CDPH has established and continually updates the CDPH Drinking Water website, as needed at:  
<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/drinkingwater/Pages/DroughtPreparedness.aspx>.
- CDPH activated an Information Line to answer concerns or questions about public drinking water systems. Contact (855) 737-1796, Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, effective Monday, February 24, 2014.

## 2. Fires (Information as of 4/2/14)

- 874 fires have been reported across the state since January 1, 2014, burning 2,353 acres. This year's fire activity is well above the year-to-date average of 307 fires, burning 1,043 acres. 54 new fires were reported over the past week, most of which were kept small thanks to additional firefighters, fire engines and firefighting aircraft added during this dry winter.

# Drought Impacts (continued)

## 3. Economic Impacts (Information as of 3/12/14)

- Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack declared two more California counties, Riverside and San Diego official disaster areas, bringing the total number of counties in this category to 56 of the 58 counties. Farmers in these counties are eligible for low interest emergency loans and other disaster assistance programs. The remaining two counties (Imperial and San Francisco) are covered as "contiguous" areas – as such, all counties in California are eligible for assistance.
- By law, SBA makes Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) available when the U. S. Secretary of Agriculture designates an agricultural disaster. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack declared this disaster on February 26, 2014.
- No information is available yet regarding impact on labor due to drought. Employment Development Department (EDD) will be sending weekly updates.

## 4. Agricultural Impacts (Information as of 4/3/14)

- CDFA will hold two public stakeholder meetings to discuss its new Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program, as well as receive comments and suggestions for the program's implementation. These meetings will take place on April 11, 2014 at CDFA headquarters, and on April 18, 2014 at the Stanislaus County Agricultural Center in Modesto.

## 5. Community Impacts (Information as of 4/3/14)

- CDFA's drought webpage has been updated to include additional community resources with links and descriptions for the following programs from USDA's Farm Service Agency: Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), Livestock Forage Program (LFP), Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-raised Fish (ELAP), and Tree Assistance Program (TAP). These programs will be open for sign-up in mid-April, 2014 (exact date unknown).





# Federal Resources/Actions

Information as of 3/17/14

- U.S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell travelled to California last week and visited the Jones Pumping Station in Tracy, one of the key components of the Federal Water Project. Secretary Jewell held an in-depth meeting with water contractors who are supplied by federal water reservoirs and toured the Jones Pumping Station. She reiterated the federal government's commitment to supporting California's drought response during her visit.
- **President signs the Drought Information Act:** Congress passed and the President signed a federal bill to reauthorize the National Integrated Drought Information System Reauthorization Act (NIDIS). This act enables a federal early warning system for droughts by providing information, forecasts and assessments to vulnerable states. NIDIS was championed by the Western Governors Association, based on the drought vulnerability of western states.
- Water managers from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation have announced initial 2014 water allocations to those who receive water from the federal Central Valley Water Project. These allocations include 0% projected allocation to agriculture users south of the Delta, similar to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) allocation in late January, which reflect historic lows in available water. The Bureau will update these allocations in the coming months based on changes in precipitation and drought conditions.
- The Bureau of Reclamation also highlighted longer term actions that will increase the reliability and sustainability of the federal water system in California. These federal actions align with California state government's recently released Water Action Plan.
- The National Aeronautical and Space Administration (NASA) announced it will apply remote sensing technology to detail impacts of the drought, such as fallowed fields and reduced groundwater supplies. NASA is providing this information to the state's DWR to help manage water resources.

# State Resources

Information as of 3/10/14

Governor Brown signed emergency legislation that provides funding for shovel-ready water projects and emergency assistance to communities hurt by the drought. The proposal also streamlines state rules to enable more water recycling, strong enforcement of water rights and housing assistance to migrant workers. Funding in the bill includes:

- \$549 million for infrastructure grants to increase storm water capture and use of recycled water, improve management of groundwater storage, and strengthen water conservation.
- \$40 million from the proceeds of the state's cap-and-trade program to help local water agencies improve their water and energy efficiency, help farmers upgrade irrigation and water pumping systems to reduce water and energy use, and to enable retrofits in commercial and residential buildings that improve water and energy efficiency.
- \$25 million for emergency food assistance in areas hard-hit by the drought.
- \$21 million for housing-related assistance to drought victims.
- \$15 million to help communities that face drinking water shortages access alternative water supplies.
- \$14 million to improve groundwater management across the state, including help to disadvantaged communities with groundwater contamination exacerbated by the drought.

# State Resources

Information as of 4/1/14

- State and Federal agencies work together to utilize recent precipitation: As California's rainy season nears its end, recent rain and snow provide precious additional water for beneficial use. The Department of Water Resources and Bureau of Reclamation are working closely with the state and federal fish and wildlife agencies to consider actions that balance use of additional water for human, environmental and agricultural purposes. These agencies are conferring with stakeholders and may take action early this week to make use of this additional precipitation. These actions will be detailed on the Water Management Actions subpage of the state's drought information clearinghouse, [www.drought.ca.gov](http://www.drought.ca.gov).
- The Department of Water Resources and the Bureau of Reclamation are also expected to outline their longer-term water operations for the coming dry months to the State Water Board in the coming days, as they seek approvals from the Water Board that help to enable the state and federal water projects' short and longer-term water operations.
- Water Board approves expedited water transfers in major area of the state: Water transfers between water users in the state and federal water projects became easier last week when the State Water Board approved a "consolidated places of use" petition from the Bureau of Reclamation and the Department of Water Resources. The decision allows water transfers to happen quickly between water users who utilize the state and federal projects. The petition was filed in late February and underwent a month-long mandatory public notice period before it could be approved.
- State and Federal Fish and Wildlife Agencies take action to preserve fish: The Department of Fish and Wildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service began an operation to move fish by truck last week from the Coleman National Fish Hatchery in Redding to the Rio Vista area of the Delta. This operation aims to save nearly 30 million hatchlings and will take two to three weeks to complete. It is one of several such actions to preserve endangered fish species during the drought.
- State's Drought Taskforce leaders travel to Santa Cruz: This Friday, April 4, leaders of the Governor's Drought Task Force will conduct their third regional meeting with local officials in Santa Cruz. This meeting will include officials from Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz counties and provide the Taskforce real-time information on drought challenges that local communities face.



# State Resources

Information as of 4/1/14

- State holds meeting with community groups on drought impacts: California Volunteers—state government's volunteer and philanthropic outreach arm—and the California Endowment held an information gathering session last week in Salinas to better understand how foundation or corporate support for drought response can be directed. The next meeting of this effort will be held in Fresno in April.
- Public meetings on grants for agricultural water efficiency: The California Department of Food and Agriculture announced that it will hold two public meetings on April 11 and April 18 to help develop its \$10 million grant program for farm-based water efficiency projects. This program is funded by cap and trade proceeds and expedited under the State's recent emergency drought legislation.
- Local government toolkit now available: The Governor's Office of Planning and Research has posted online its drought toolkit for local governments, which outline actions that communities can take to respond to the drought. Debbie Davis, Local Drought Liaison, is leading this effort ([drought.clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov](mailto:drought.clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov), 1-916-327-0068).
- Tribal consultation: Last week on March 21, the Governor's Tribal Advisor held a Statewide Consultation Call with Tribal leaders to continue discussions on drought response with Drought Task Force officials.
- Government Facilities Training: The Department of General Services held a water conservation training last week for facility managers from state and local governments, as well as school districts across the state, to provide information and support to their water use reduction efforts. Over 300 managers from across the state participated.
- Cost Data: Cal OES continues to gather drought-related costs from state agencies and local governments, which is reported weekly to the Drought Taskforce.
- Governor's Drought Task Force: The Taskforce continues to meet weekly to take actions that conserve water and coordinate state response to the drought.

# State Advance/Strategic Planning

Information as of 3/20/14

State actions looking forward for 30, 60, 120 days ahead will focus on:

- State and federal funding and legislative actions.
- Agricultural support, including USDA programs and other assistance to farmers.
- Actions to address water system operations and water supply, including curtailments, transfers, delta emergency actions.
- Actions to assess and assist with emergency needs related to drinking water.
- Assessment of hydropower generation, and any direct or indirect impacts to the electricity supply.
- Actions to address long-term habitat preservation.
- Community support needs and delivery of needed services such as food, rental/housing assistance, utilities assistance and support to non-profit organizations.
- Public health and safety issues such as increased fire threat, security threats, and activation of contingency plans.
- Actions to anticipate and address air quality impacts from continuing drought.

# Current Missions

Information as of 3/25/14

## Current Missions:

- There are no current missions open at this time.
- Mission 2014-Inland-2185 Tuolumne County was completed on March 25, 2014.

# County Drought Task Force Meetings

Information as of 4/4/14

County Drought Task Force Upcoming Meetings		
Inland Region		
County	Previous Meetings	Upcoming Meetings
Butte	2/18/2014	5/19/2014
Kern	3/13/2014	4/10/2014
Madera	3/11/2014	4/29/2014
Merced	3/19/2014	4/17/2014
Modoc	2/12/2014	
Nevada	2/28/2014	4/15/2014
Placer	3/12/2014	
Plumas	3/17/2014	4/14/2014
Sacramento	3/21/2014	4/11/2014
San Joaquin	3/19/2014	4/16/2014
Siskiyou	3/12/2014	
Stanislaus	3/19/2014	5/8/2014
Sutter	3/13/2014	4/10/2014
Tehama	2/18/2014	
Tulare	3/10/2014	4/14/2014
Tuolumne	3/28/2014	4/25/2014
Coastal Region		
County	Previous Meetings	Upcoming Meetings
Mendocino	2/26/2014	
Monterey		
San Mateo	3/18/2014	
Santa Clara	2/27/2014	
Solano		
Southern Region		
County	Previous Meetings	Upcoming Meetings
San Luis Obispo	3/19/2014	
Santa Barbara	3/12/2014	4/9/2014
Orange		4/1/2014



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# County Updates

## **Santa Barbara County (as of 3/28/14):**

- Cachuma Tecolote Tunnel Hydro pumping lacks necessary electrical infrastructure for long term pumping sustainability. Attempting to identify and establish long term permanent solution for Tecolote Tunnel design shortfalls.
- State water is still being pumped at the max amount to the lake of 50AF per day. Still have about 3,076 AF carryover water remaining to be pumped into Lake Cachuma, assuming remaining carryover water is fully delivered to the lake by the beginning of June (absent additional supplies we are trying to purchase through the CCWA Supplemental Water Purchase Program).
- By March 31<sup>st</sup>, CCWA project participants will decide whether a purchase 10,000 AF of water north of the delta from rice farmers. Undetermined losses may occur associated with moving the water through the delta, and the SWRC has not yet decided if they will allow transfers. A firm offer to sellers must be provided by April 25, 2014.
- Montecito Water District has cut back water by 32% to agricultural customers and Santa Barbara County Fire Stations are reducing water usage by 20%.
- Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board (COMB): The updated Engineering estimate of project cost is \$4.5 million. Including planning, legal and engineering oversight the total project estimate exceeds \$5 million. Gate repairs to the intake portal (the beginning of the water conveyance system) will be necessary prior to installation of the Emergency Pumping Facility Project. Estimated cost \$400K.
- Current and expected forecasted storms do not provide relief to water supplies.

# County Updates (continued)

## San Joaquin County (as of 4/2/14):

- OES continues to maintain a centralized web site and social media presence (<http://www.sjgov.org/oes/2014%20drought.htm>) for Operational Area (OA) participating jurisdictions.
- County Office of Emergency Services made the recommendation to the Board of Supervisors, at the March 25th session, to “review and continue” the proclamation of a Local Emergency, due to drought conditions, for another 30 days. (Next Board of Supervisor’s Session April 22, 2014)
- Due to a schedule conflict, the next Agricultural Drought Task Force meeting will be moved to April 17th.
- South San Joaquin County Irrigation District has decided to fill Woodward Reservoir in Oakdale. The reservoir will be filled May 1st through July 7th.
- Information on the CDFA assistance briefing in Modesto April 11th and 18th will go out to the Task Force and Advisory Group members.

## San Mateo County (as of 3/25/14):

- The San Gregorio Creek Watermaster Julian Fulwiler, P.E. of Stetson Engineers, reports that due to limited rainfall the creek is well below normal. Water users of this system were mailed a written request, particularly to 4th, 3rd and 2nd priority water users; for their voluntary reductions in diversions; and asked to take immediate action to increase their water conservation efforts.
- County Service Areas 7-La Honda and 11-Pescadero are still able to pump from the creeks or underground wells to replenish storage tanks as needed. As the creek levels diminish and pumping no longer viable; a bulk-container transport of potable water will be needed for replenishing storage. The County Public Works Department will report on the situation to the Op Area OES Duty Officer weekly or when conditions for an emergency are forecasted.



# County Updates (continued)

## **Tehama County (as of 4/2/14):**

- The Meeting for the Drought Committee referred to as the 30/30 group will be meeting May 19, 2014 at the Red Bluff Courthouse at 2 PM.

## **Stanislaus County (as of 4/3/14):**

- Local irrigation districts reported the beginning of the water season was delayed by one week to one month due to the rain received at the end of February and beginning of March. The end of the water season has not been extended.
- Representatives from the Stanislaus County Farm Bureau advised that hundreds of thousands of acres are expected to be fallowed throughout the San Joaquin Valley. However, currently there is no quantifiable information specific to Stanislaus County.
- Stanislaus County Animal Services is monitoring for large animal abandonment due to the drought. At this point in time, they have not seen a significant increase but will continue to monitor.
- Turlock Irrigation District advised that at the end of the irrigation season in October, there will be no carry over storage for irrigation for 2015. Water allocations for 2015 will be based on inflow received during the rainy season.
- Due to recent precipitation, Turlock Irrigation District is delaying the beginning of the irrigation season to April 10, 2014. The new dates for the delivery of irrigation water are 4-10 through 10-8-2014. The cap remains at 20 inches of water per acre. The Water Department Distribution Manager may change the dates of the season depending on crop needs and weather.

# County Updates (continued)

## **San Luis Obispo County (as of 3/24/14):**

- The San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors approved a local emergency proclamation on March 11, 2014.
- San Luis Obispo County is developing a separate webpage for drought information.
- San Simeon State Park has been declared a Stage 3 Drought Emergency. In order to meet the park's basic water needs, San Simeon has been forced to take a number of drastic measures. The showers and water faucets in the campground have been shut off. It's anticipated that the permanent flushing toilets will be closed, and portable bathrooms will be installed. Campers need to bring water for consumption. The Dump Station is open for the time being.

## **Sonoma County (as of 4/2/14):**

- Sonoma County Emergency Management Staff will meet with Cal OES and Sonoma County Water Agency on Apr 18th to discuss future meetings and actions.

## **Plumas County (as of 3/25/14):**

- Long-range efforts will be coordinated through the Plumas Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWM).
- Next Drought Preparedness Task Force Meeting is scheduled to be held on April 14, 2014.

# County Updates (continued)

## Placer County (as of 3/25/14):

- The Western Slope Placer County Fire Safe Councils (FSC) are planning Community Town Hall Meetings to provide information the residents can use to help prevent catastrophic wildfires due to the drought conditions. Each FSC will have a panel of presenters (i.e. Cal Fire, USFS, applicable water agency, the fire safe council, fire alliance, and local OES representative) to provide information specific to their agency.

## Kings County (as of 3/25/14):

- Lack of water impacts has started showing up in Kings County's employment statistics.
- County residents experienced an average of 15 percent unemployment in February, according to a report released Friday by the state Employment Development Department. That compares to an unadjusted rate of 8.5 percent for California and 7 percent for the nation as a whole.
- Agriculture and supporting industries mustered 5,400 Kings County jobs in February, but that was actually down from 5,500 jobs in January.
- Last year, the number went the opposite direction, climbing from 5,400 in January to 5,500 in February.
- The reason for this year's drop is tens of thousands of acres of farmland that were planted last year are being fallowed due to drought. Growers are hiring fewer seasonal workers for tractor work and irrigation jobs.

## Yuba County (as of 4/2/14):

- Yuba County Board of Supervisors continued their local emergency proclamation on March 25, 2014.

# County Updates (continued)

## Tuolumne County (as of 4/4/14):

- Tuolumne Utility District (TUD) has been working with PG&E to request an extension from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) of a temporary variance of minimum flow requirements out of Lyons Reservoir. That extension was ordered on March 18, 2014 and it expires June 15, 2014.
- Tuolumne County has an emergency water shortage mitigation plan being implemented by the TUD. TUD has been working to implement a complex mitigation plan to address its impending water shortage. That plan includes a proposed water transfer, maintenance of capacity in two upstream reservoirs and the drilling of new groundwater wells in two locations. Given the evolving nature of the plan, County OES and Cal OES Inland Region are attempting to assemble all the key agencies in a room to receive a current briefing from TUD, discuss the triggers and assumptions built into the plan and discuss any potential regulatory roadblocks that will have to be overcome for the plan to succeed. This meeting is scheduled for April 3, 2014.
- On March 19, 2014, Tuolumne County OES, TUD, and Cal OES representatives met and decided that there are three priorities that are necessary to keep Tuolumne County with water. The priorities are as follows:
  1. New Melones Reservoir- They need to work with the Bureau of Reclamation to get approval to continue pumping out of New Melones past September 30, 2014.
  2. Pinecrest Reservoir- They need to work with the State Water Resources Control Board and the U.S. Forest Service to lift the recreational water restrictions to continue pumping as much water as possible to Lyons Reservoir.
  3. Lyons Reservoir- They need to keep the fish release out of Lyons Reservoir.

# County Updates (continued)

## Fresno County (as of 3/25/14):

- Due to the drought Fresno expects unemployment levels to increase to approximately 40 percent, similar to the impacts in previous water-short years, such as 2009.
- Anticipate a significant impact on Ag as well as other industries. A lack of crops/production will lead to a lack of jobs and revenue being generated throughout most of our communities. Many of our residents and communities will suffer. As with the last drought, we expect our private non-profit organizations to be heavily impacted with requests for assistance.
- Local Private Non Profit Organizations are beginning to meet to discuss the level of need and what resources will be available to help.
- The Fresno County Ag Commissioner is working with the County Farm Bureau and other partner agencies to attempt to accurately quantify the impacts that the drought is currently having on the agricultural economy in the County as well as projecting future impacts.
- Rangeland conditions are deteriorating since the most recent rain events. Feeding of cattle on rangeland continues.
  - Cattlemen have aggressively culled herds and sold calves early to try to save the mother herd.
  - Well water and carryover allocations of water is being used to protect producing permanent crops.
  - Some orchards have been removed and allocated water is being diverted to younger orchards.
  - Based on a sampling of farmers, Fresno County is on track to fallow at least 200,000 acres of productive farmland this year as a result of the drought. The value of lost crop production is estimated to be approximately \$1.7 billion.
  - The value of lost economic activity tied to reduced crop production is estimated to reach \$5 billion.
  - Plantings of spring lettuce are expected to be reduced by 50%. Plantings of cotton and other row crops are also being reduced.
  - Later in the year we will see reduced production of bell peppers, melons, processing tomatoes and other annual crops. Reduced plantings of these crops will have a major impact on available jobs.



# County Updates (continued)

## **Fresno County - cont'd (as of 3/25/14):**

- There has been a significant increase in the number of permits being issued to drill wells. Permits for well drilling have been approximately double what they were at this time last year.
- According to an informal survey of local well drillers the average wait time for an Ag well is about 10-12 months. Wait times for domestic wells is about 5-10 months depending on the location.
- Environmental impacts from the increased utilization of well water will likely lead to subsidence issues and over time will create high salt content in our soils making farm land less productive.

## **Solano County (as of 4/2/14):**

- A Drought Task Force met Monday 3/31 to discuss the Drought Emergency Proclamation. The next meeting will include the County General Services Department Manager to add additional expertise.

## **Los Angeles County (as of 4/3/14):**

- The Torrance City Council banned outdoor watering between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., limited watering to three days a week and required the repair of water leaks within seven days. These are the first restrictions since 2009. Outdoor irrigation accounts for 40 percent of all residential water-use in the city, officials said.



# County Updates (continued)

## Siskiyou County (as of 4/2/14):

- On March 26, a meeting was held at the Montague Water Conservation District office, with The City of Montague, Co. CAO, Co. Counsel, Co. OES, Cal OES, District BOS Member and the Shasta Valley Water Master. The District provides water to the City for drinking water. Due to drought conditions and a recent Court Order, the District may not be able to provide water to the city later this summer. The city has no other sources available. It was recommended that the district and the city make local proclamations and implement a planning group to address the issues. Either party has different options to assist in funding repairs and alternative delivery methods. A Meeting is scheduled to meet with USDA Rural Development to discuss funding sources.
- On 03/17/14 the City of Montague sent out water curtailment letters to the residents of Montague. The curtailment letter requested no outdoor watering of any kind. The city included in the letter that they would not be irrigating any of the city parks or property around city facilities.
- On 03/18/14, Ag Growers Meeting in Tulelake, CA. Provided meeting participants with Ag Loss Surveys. Tulelake Irrigation District (TID) is potentially seeking financial assistance from the state, as they did in 2003, which allowed them to put in ten agricultural wells throughout the Tulelake Basin.
- The cost of power to run the pumps is presently over \$36.00 per acre-foot. The district continues to maintain the wells, but will only use them in emergency situations due to the cost of power to pump the water.
- Current TID plan is to provide irrigation water to all farmers and ranchers in the Tulelake Basin. If they choose this option, the cost of power to run these wells would be devastating to the local economy. The TID services approximately 68,000 acres in the Tulelake Basin with an approximate production value of \$87,000,000.

# County Updates (continued)

## **Siskiyou County- cont'd (as of 4/2/14):**

- The economy in the Tulelake Basin is dependent on non-residential seasonal farm workers, who migrate into the area during the growing season. When growing season ends, the majority of the workers leave the area in search of other seasonal work. If farmers are unable to plant their fields, the seasonal workers will not return to the area, which will have a devastating impact on local stores, restaurants, gas stations and other business that rely on agricultural growing season.
- Learned of a grant opportunity on 03/20/14, through the USDA Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants (ECWAG) Program. The grant program helps eligible rural communities recover from or prepare for emergencies that result in a decline in capacity to provide safe, reliable drinking water for households and businesses.
  - Grants up to \$150,000 are for repairs to breaks or leaks in existing water distribution lines, and related maintenance.
  - Grants up to \$500,000 are for construction of a new water source, intake and/or treatment facility or waterline extensions.
  - On 03/24/14, a Community Programs Specialist met with the USDA Rural Development and will work with Montague to provide grant funding through the above ECWAG grant. A meeting has been scheduled for 03/28/14, the Community Programs Specialist will meet with the City of Montague and the Montague Water Conservation District to discuss the grant in greater detail.

## **Sacramento County (as of 3/25/14):**

- The Sacramento County Agriculture Commissioner has been meeting with Farmers, Ranchers and Growers to monitor their conditions; this month's rain has helped for the short term with their issues.

# County Updates (continued)

## Kern County (as of 3/25/14):

- Tom Torlakson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, was in Bakersfield on March 19, 2014 to discuss how the current drought situation is affecting local students.
- Torlakson spoke during breakfast for "Farm Day in the City" about how the drought is driving people from jobs in our local communities.
- He also explains that as a result of this, kids are moving with their parents and their attendance in school is dropping.
- Schools get paid for average daily attendance, so if kids aren't showing up to school it can hurt the funding for that school.
- Torlakson also made stops in Tulare, Fresno and Merced counties where he promised his support during these tough times.
- Arvin and Wasco school districts are estimating at least some decline in student attendance next year due to the drought.

## Merced County (as of 3/25/14):

- The Local Drought Emergency Proclamation was renewed on March 25, 2014.
- Merced County has established a Drought Task Force. First meeting was on March 18, 2014, and next meeting will be held April 17, 2014.

# County Updates (continued)

## Yolo County (as of 4/3/14):

- Dunnigan Water District is being allowed to carry-over the remainder of their allocation (1,000 acre ft.) until April. At this point they will be out of water unless they can purchase additional water. They are looking into the purchase of approximately an additional 1,000 acre ft. of water if the land owners sign up to pay for it.
- The City of Woodland is currently asking water customers to voluntarily reduce water use by 20%. Water conservation codes were revised with the hope to have updated codes passed by City Council in early summer so that any upcoming dry year declarations would follow the new cutbacks, which are consistent with the greater Sacramento area. Yolo County is continuing their ongoing water conservation outreach efforts, including the recent Water-Wise Wednesdays landscaping workshop series in March and the upcoming Water-Wise Landscape Tour on June 7.
- The City's water system is supplied exclusively by groundwater until 2016. Groundwater elevations are expected to be lower this year due to the dry conditions and increased agricultural well usage surrounding the City. The City anticipates reduced productivity at our wells due to lower groundwater elevations. The City could also experience lower water quality, including higher nitrates. The City is currently constructing a new 3.0 million gallon water storage tank and booster pump station, which will help meet peak demands when it is online this summer.

# County Updates (continued)

## San Diego County (as of 3/28/14):

- San Diego OA continues to monitor the situation. Borrego Water District advised they are fine for water and are self sustained and are doing well with their conservation efforts.
- The City of San Diego held a meeting of their Committee on the Environment of the City Council on March 26th and voted to mirror the recommendations of the San Diego County Water Authority's Level I Drought Watch, calling for 10% voluntary water conservation as well as approved the Pure Water Program for the increased use of recycled water. Since this program is a not a "project," it is not subject to CEQA .
- The City of San Diego is launching water conservation public awareness with the "San Diegans Waste No Water Ad" and is consistent with the "Californians Don't Waste" campaign. The ads will appear on television, Facebook and Twitter will also be used for public outreach, using the website WasteNoWater.org.

## Sierra County (as of 4/2/14):

- The west side of Sierra County received over 7 inches of rain in the last week, and over 1 inch on the east side. This brings the county above 50% of normal rainfall for the year (July-June) on the west side.

## Butte County (as of 4/4/14):

- PID will be asking for a rate change that would encourage Water Conservation, outdoor watering.
- The Board approved a voluntary 20% water reduction as a conservation measure.

# County Updates (continued)

## Mendocino County (as of 3/25/14):

- The Russian River Flood Control and Water Conservation Improvement District voted Monday to sell water to the Redwood Valley County Water District, which might otherwise have run out of water in two months. Shawn White, Russian River Flood Control reported the flood control district can sell Redwood Valley "up to 355 acre feet this year," which is estimated to provide "80 gallons per person per day." As a possible source for additional water, Redwood Valley is working with Millview County Water District.
- The storage in Lake Mendocino has improved since last month, allowing Russian River Flood Control district to provide water to Redwood Valley and to relax the restrictions it placed on its customers from 50 percent conservation to 25 percent conservation. With rain in the forecast this week and Lake Pillsbury full, conditions should improve even more next month.
- Sonoma County Water Agency will also make releases for frost protection in coordination with the flood control district and the Mendocino County Farm Bureau, although those releases may affect the amount of water available for late season irrigation.
- The Mendocino County Emergency Ad Hoc Committee Meeting is scheduled for March 27, 2014.
- The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors will vote to continue the Drought Emergency Declaration on April 8, 2014.
- March 28th and 29th Mendocino County is expected to receive up to 5 inches of much needed rain. The EOC and Department of Transportation will be monitoring the rain and any flooding or slides that may take place due to the heavy rain.



# County Updates (continued)

## Napa County (as of 4/2/14)

- Napa County and their five incorporated Cities are managing well and there is not currently nor do they anticipate in the near future a drought emergency. They are waiting for updated information from DWR about available and projected water resources for the County of Napa. The DWR update should be available tomorrow afternoon. We will know more then, specifically, about the extent to which American Canyon should anticipate problems. Current update, with the exception of American Canyon, the County and the other Cities are reporting that February's rains and the rains we have had the last few days have raised the current levels of Napa's reservoir water to almost 100% County wide. Further, Lake Berryessa is currently at 94% of capacity. The significance of this is that Napa is working on contingencies to get American Canyon water in the event of a shut off of NBA water; including Napa City providing water from Lake Hennessy (98% capacity) and the Solano County Water Agency agreeing to provide Lake Berryessa water to American Canyon from Lake Berryessa.

# Weather Synopsis by Region

Information as of 4/4/14

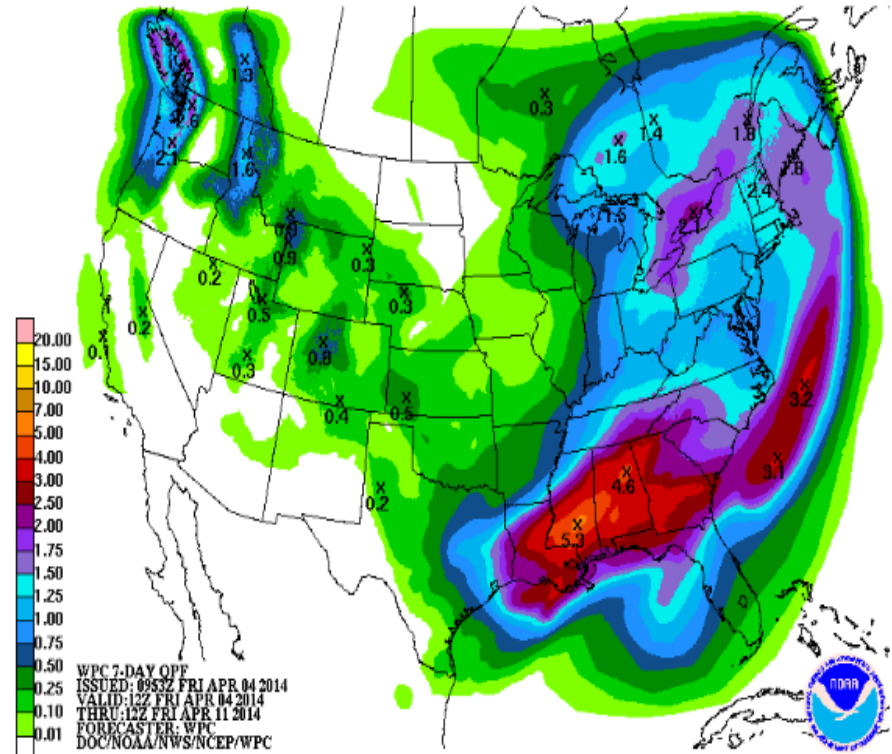
## Northern & Central California

### Eureka Weather:

A weak front will continue to bring a few showers to the North Coast this morning. Another weak system will bring some showers to areas north of Trinidad County on Saturday. Sunday into next week, a strong ridge of high pressure will bring warm temperatures and dry conditions to the region.

### San Francisco Weather:

Light rain showers will impact the morning commute with scattered showers this afternoon over the hills. High pressure builds overnight into Saturday with a return of dry and mild weather. Strong high pressure builds Sunday through the middle of next week with clear skies and warm afternoon temperatures.



<http://www.hpc.ncep.noaa.gov/qpf/day1-7.shtml>



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# Weather Synopsis by Region

Information as of 4/4/14

## California Precipitation Graphic

72 hour (3/31/14-4/3/14)

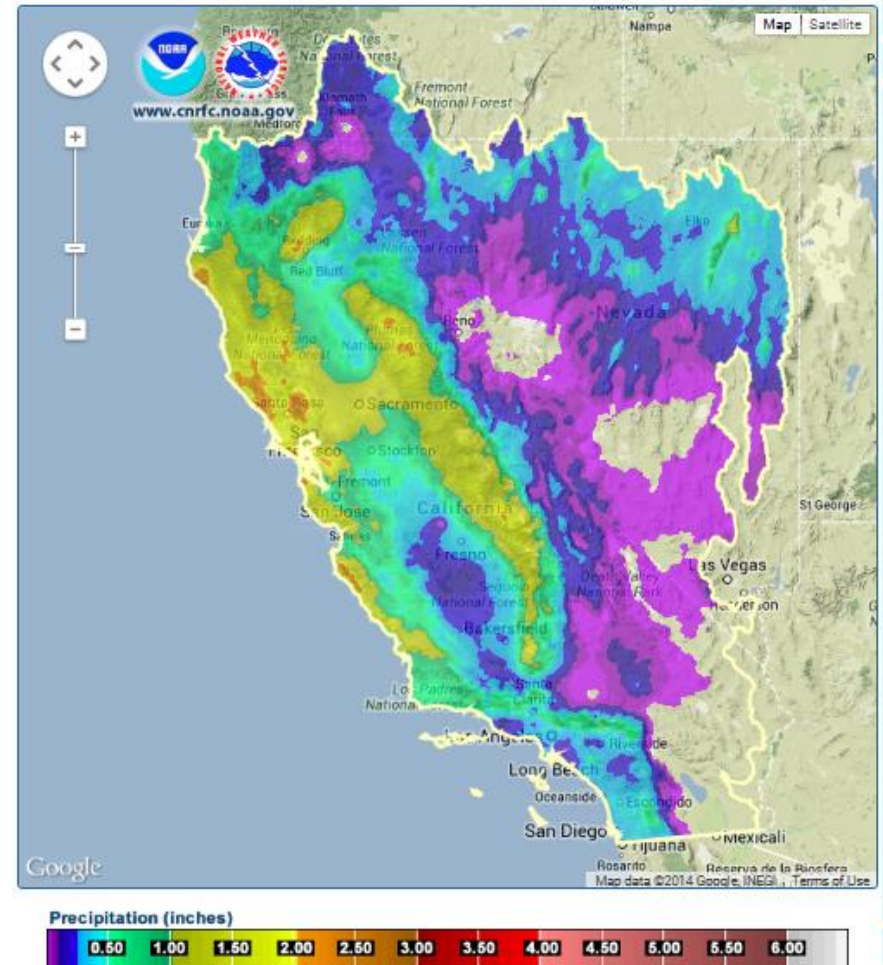
### Central California and Southern San Joaquin Valley

#### Sacramento Weather:

A weak weather system will move through the Sacramento Valley today and tonight bringing scattered light showers to nearly the entire forecast area. Precipitation amounts are expected to remain quite light with moderate snow levels. Drier and warmer weather is expected for the weekend and on through next week. By early next week, daytime high temperatures are expected to climb to well above season normals.

#### Hanford Weather:

A weak frontal system is expected to move through today with scattered mountain showers and light precipitation in the Central Valley mostly north of Fresno Friday. High pressure will again build over the area over the weekend and provide for a warming and drying trend.



<http://www.cnrfc.noaa.gov/google.php>



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# Weather Synopsis by Region

Information as of 4/4/14

## Southern California

### Los Angeles Weather:

A weak frontal system may bring some showers late this morning through this evening; mainly to northern parts of the Los Angeles area with snow showers possible in the mountains. Building high pressure aloft will bring warming to the region this weekend with very warm to hot weather and dry conditions early next week as offshore flow develops. Some cooling is expected to begin Wednesday and continue Thursday.

### Orange, San Diego, Western Riverside, and Southwestern San Bernardino Weather:

A weak trough of low pressure will move through California today bringing some clouds and cooler weather through Saturday. A few light showers are possible over and west of the mountains tonight. A strong ridge of high pressure over the west will bring much warmer weather next week.

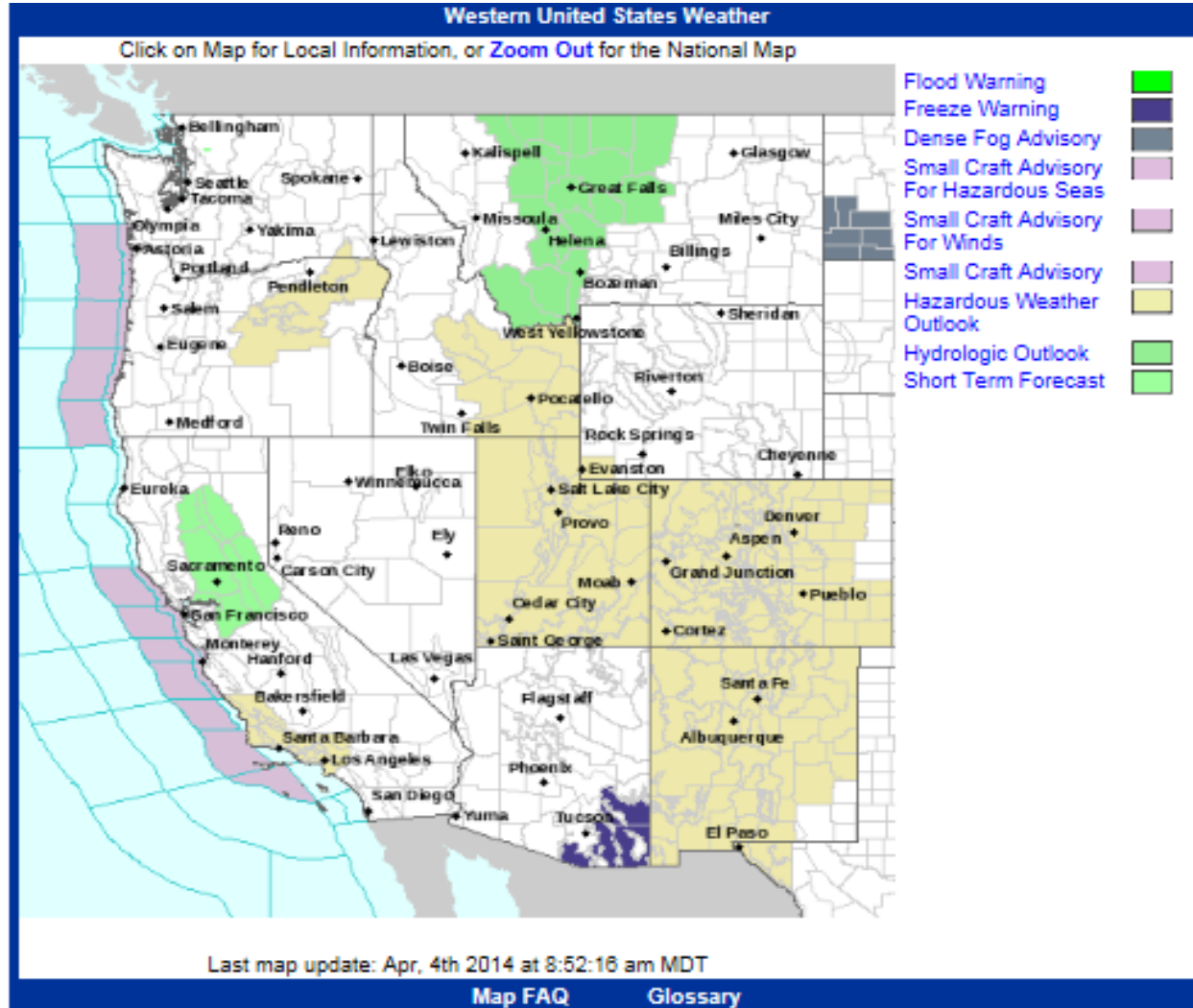
### Southeast California Weather:

A storm system moving through Southeastern California today and Saturday will bring cloudiness, but only a small chance of showers for parts of Inyo County and the southern Great Basin. Temperatures will rise several degrees today and reach normal Sunday and above normal next week with dry conditions expected under a strong ridge of high pressure.



# State Weather Map

Information as of 4/4/14



<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/>



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National 7-day Significant  
Fire Potential Outlook



Legend

Fuel Dryness

- Moist - Little or no risk for large fires.
- Dry - Low risk of large fires in the absence of a "High Risk" event.
- Very dry - Low/Moderate risk of large fires in the absence of a "High Risk" event.
- Data Unavailable.

High Risk Events

- W Wind
- H Hot and Dry
- Lightning

Missing Stations

- Yurok
- Whitmore Califo

California - North Area 7 Day  
Significant Fire Potential

Predictive Service Area	Wed Apr 2	Thu Apr 3	Fri Apr 4	Sat Apr 5	Sun Apr 6	Mon Apr 7	Tue Apr 8	Wed Apr 9
NC01 - North Coast								
NC02 - Mid Coast								
NC03A - Bay Area-Marine								
NC03B - Diablo/Santa Cruz Mtns								
NC04 - Northwestern Mtns								
NC05 - Sacramento Valley								
NC06 - Northeast CA								
NC07 - Northern Sierra								
NC08 - East Side								

Weather

We are coming off of a very wet 2-week period over Nrn CA. After a one day break, another Pacific system will bring increasing clouds today and widespread but mostly light showers to most of Nrn CA late today into Friday. Just a low end wetting rain for most areas, mainly ranging from 0.10-0.30 inches. Locally higher amounts across far NW CA. After this system, stronger high pressure will provide 5-7 days of sunnier warmer weather from late Saturday into the middle of next week. Some offshore flow expected this weekend across the Western Sierra and the Coastal Mtns.

Fuels/Fire Potential

Fuels in all PSAs will remain in the **MOIST** category thru the 7-Day period. Significant precipitation fell in all areas over the past 2 weeks and with a return to sunny, warm weather late in the period, new grass growth and developing green-up in mid elevations should keep any fire threat minimal. Mid to higher elevations have recieved significant snowfall recently but the overall mountain snowpack will remain well below normal. Much of the new snow below 6000 feet elevation will melt off quickly with the coming warmer weather.

For prescribed burning, see the daily Smoke dispersion product at: [http://gacc.nifc.gov/oncc/predictiveweather/daily\\_smoke/Smoke.html](http://gacc.nifc.gov/oncc/predictiveweather/daily_smoke/Smoke.html)

Even with all the precipitation, most of Northern California remains in **Severe to Extreme** longer-term drought. For the latest drought map see: <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/Home/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?CA>

Resources

North OPS: Preparedness Level 1  
National: Preparedness Level 1  
MACS Mode 2

For more information about this product, please go to: <http://gacc.nifc.gov/oncc/predictiveweather/Fire%20Potential%20Documentation.htm>  
And for more information on the national product please go to: [http://gacc.nifc.gov/oncc/predictiveweather/information\\_of\\_Six\\_7-Day\\_Fire\\_Pot\\_product.doc](http://gacc.nifc.gov/oncc/predictiveweather/information_of_Six_7-Day_Fire_Pot_product.doc)

Forecasters: Basil 4/3/2014 0842 MDT





## Legend

### Fuel Dryness

- Moist - Little or no risk for large fires.
- Dry - Low risk of large fires in the absence of a "High Risk" event.
- Very dry - Low/Moderate risk of large fires in the absence of a "High Risk" event.
- Data Unavailable.

### High Risk Events

- Windy and Dry
- Lightning

#### Missing Stations

- Devore

# California - South Area 7 Day Significant Fire Potential

Issued: Friday, Apr 4, 2014

Parameters: None v

Predictive Service Area	Thu Apr 3	Fri Apr 4	Sat Apr 5	Sun Apr 6	Mon Apr 7	Tue Apr 8	Wed Apr 9	Thu Apr 10
SC01 - Eastern Sierra								
SC02 - Central Sierra								
SC03 - Southern Sierra								
SC04 - Sierra Foothills								
SC05 - Central Valley								
SC06 - Central Coast Interior								
SC07 - Central Coast								
SC08 - South Coast								
SC09 - Western Mountains								
SC10 - Eastern Mountains								
SC11 - Southern Mountains								
SC12 - Lower Deserts								
SC13 - Eastern Deserts								
SC14 - Central Mojave								
SC15 - Upper Deserts								
SC16 - Northern Deserts								

### Weather

#### \*\*\*Very Warm and Dry Sunday through Wednesday\*\*\*

The last in a series of troughs which has impacted the state during the last 10 days will move through the district today. This system is significantly weaker than previous storms this week and only a few light showers are expected across the central part of the state. Rainfall of a tenth to a quarter of an inch will be possible in the Sierras and the central coast region today, mainly along west-facing aspects. The snow level will remain above 6,000 feet. The passage of the trough will result in slightly cooler readings today along with plenty of afternoon cloudiness. Highs will be in the 60s to around 70 across the inland valleys to the upper 40s and 50s in the mountains. The system will move east of the area tonight which will result in gusty north winds in a few places after midnight. **North winds of 15-25 mph with gusts to 35 mph will be possible in Santa Barbara County and the I-5 Corridor Saturday, mainly during the morning hours.** One or two light showers may also be possible on the north aspects of the Angeles and San Bernardino Mountains late tonight, which should end before sunrise. The rest of the day will be mostly sunny and warmer with highs back in the 70s at the lower elevations. Much warmer weather is expected during the first half of next week as a very high amplitude ridge builds over Southern California. **By Monday and Tuesday, highs will reach the lower 90s in the valleys, lower foothills and even across much of the coastal plains. Minimum RH may approach 10% during the afternoon hours Monday and Tuesday. Light offshore winds of 10-20 mph will be possible Sunday night into Monday morning which will keep RH recovery poor over much of Southern California.** Cooler weather is expected to return next Thursday as a weak cutoff low approaches the region. This system may produce a deep marine layer and some drizzle, but no additional significant rain is expected during the next 7 days.

### Fuels/Fire Potential

Large fire potential will remain low through Saturday due to cool weather and recent rainfall. However, hot and dry weather will result in much lower dead fuel moisture by the first part of next week. Fine dead fuels will likely become susceptible to ignition by next Tuesday, allowing for rapid spread in beds dominated by dead and down vegetation. Seasonal grasses have grown significantly during the past two weeks, especially in Central California, and will likely retain enough moisture to prevent fire spread across lower elevations. Live fuel moisture has climbed back above 80% in several districts recently. But some IA may be possible in urban interface regions from 3,000 to 5,000 feet above the seasonal grasses and below heavier vegetation. Resource demand will generally be low through the period.

### Resources

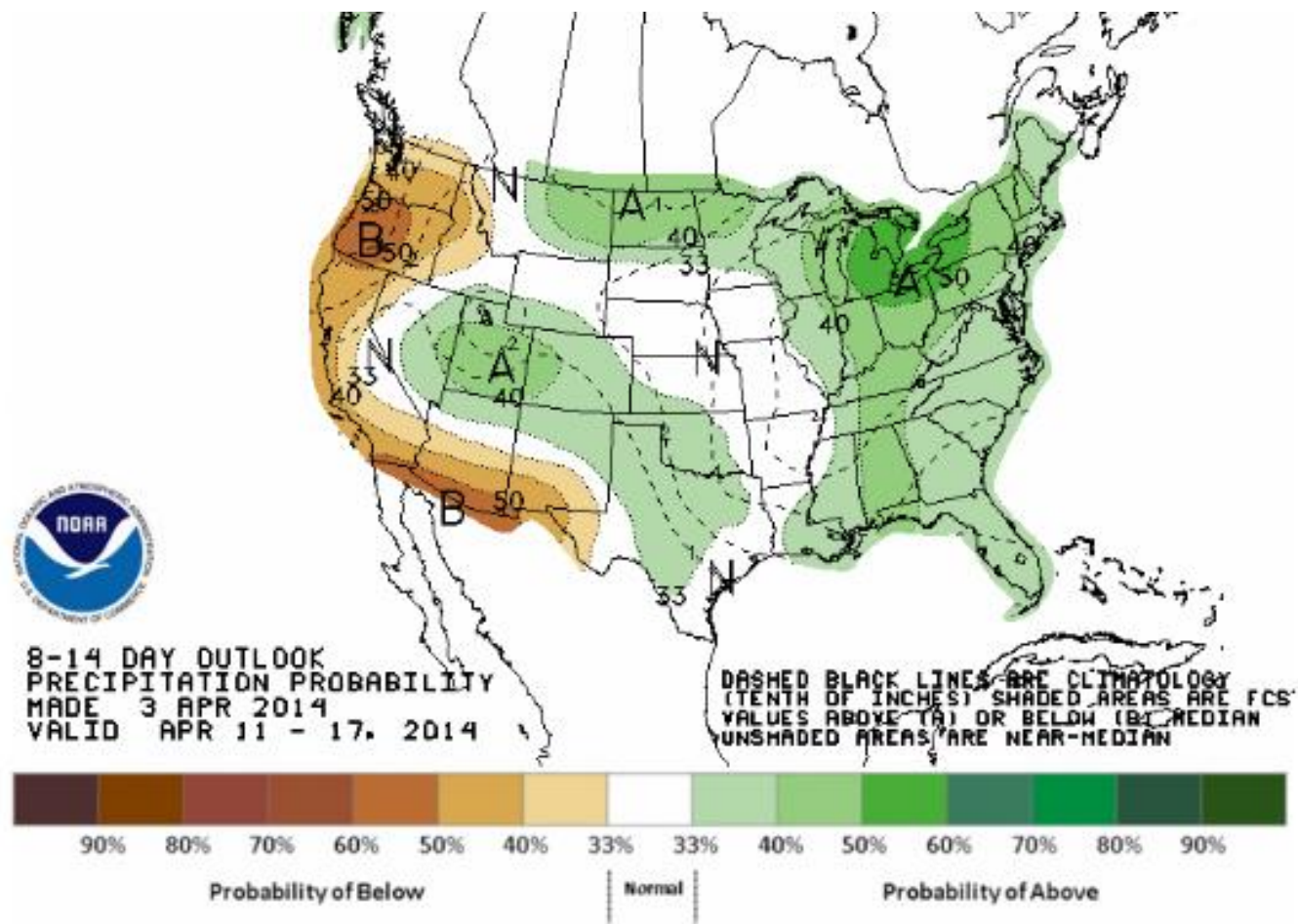
CWCG Preparedness Level 2, MACS Mode 2

<http://psgeodata.fs.fed.us/7day/action/forecast/8>



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# 8-14 Day Precipitation Probability Outlook for April 11 – April 17, 2014



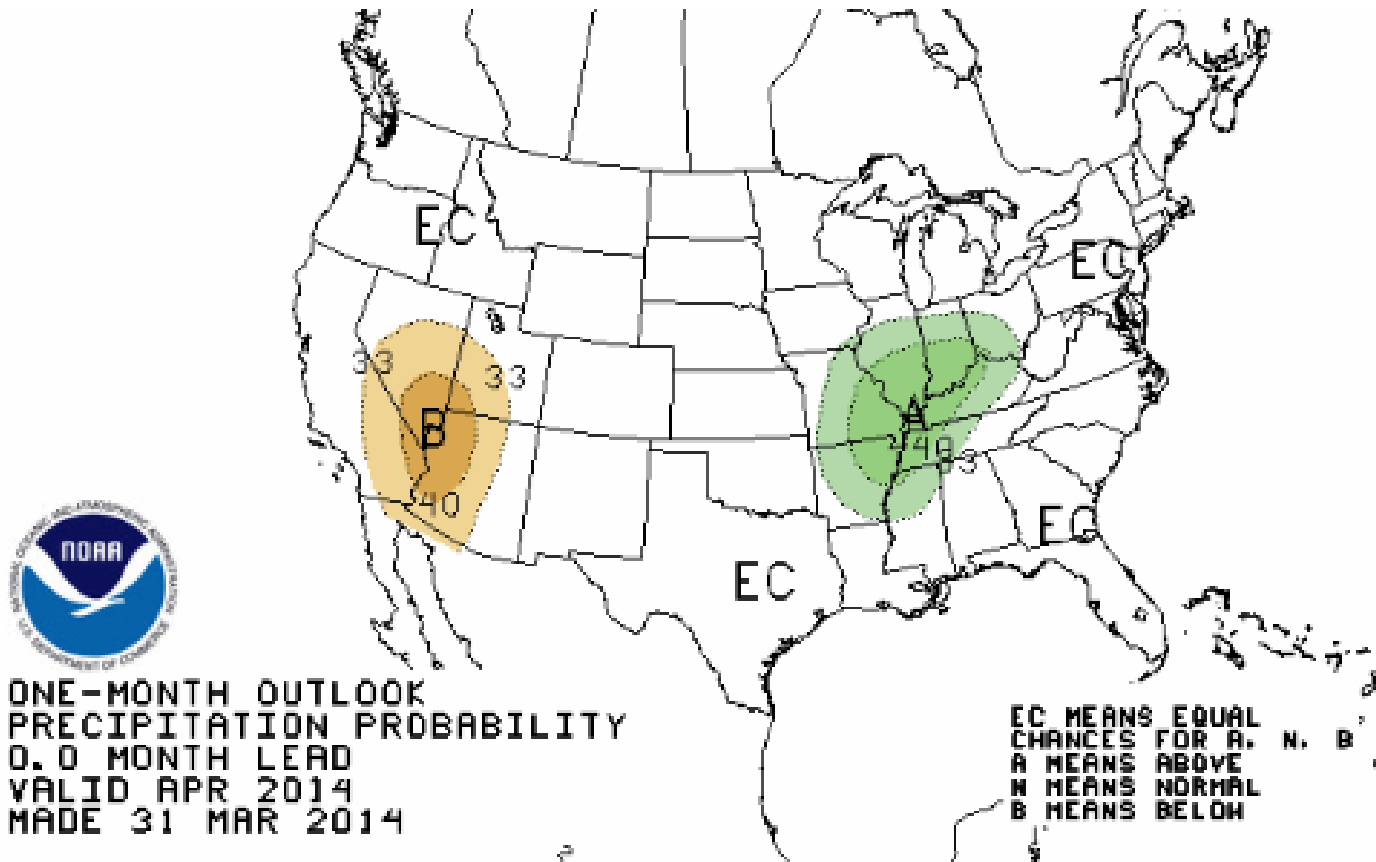
<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/814day/>



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## March-April Precipitation Probability Outlook



<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/30day/>



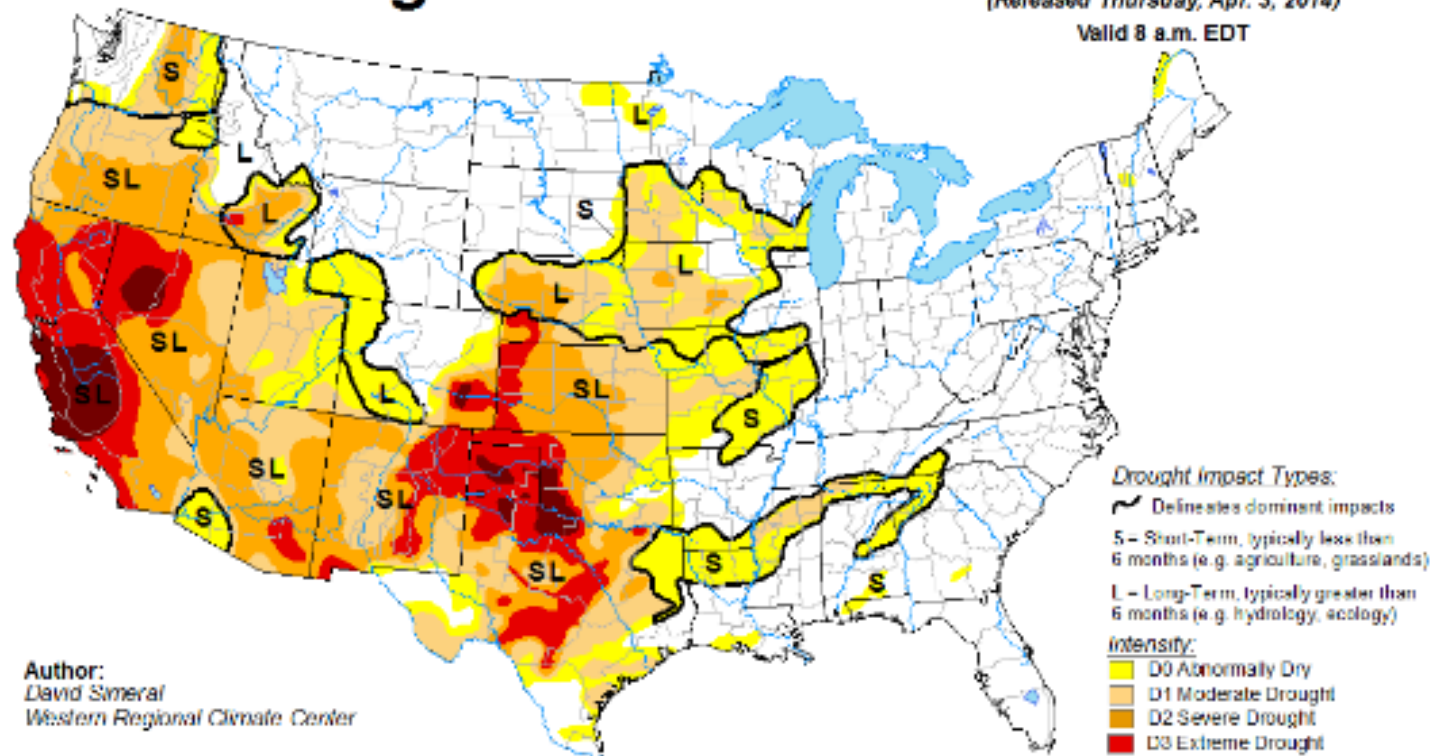
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# U.S. Drought Monitor

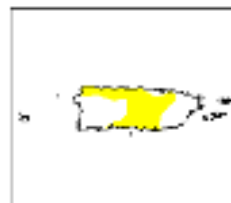
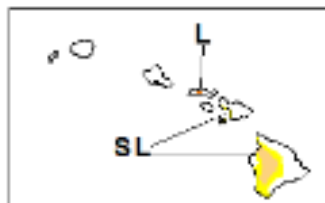
April 1, 2014

(Released Thursday, Apr. 3, 2014)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Author:  
David Smeral  
Western Regional Climate Center



The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.



<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

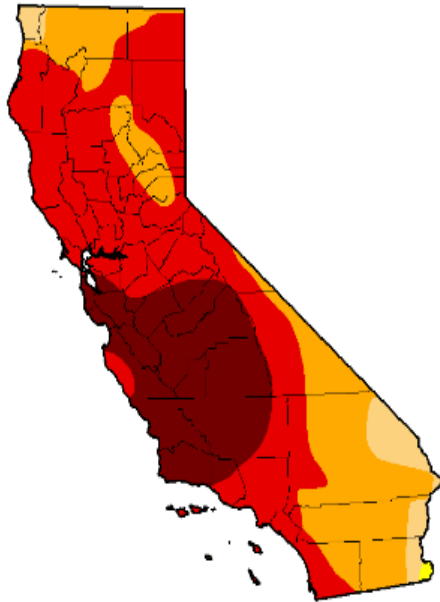
<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>



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# Weather Summary - Current Drought Conditions in California

## U.S. Drought Monitor California



April 1, 2014

(Released Thursday April 3, 2014)

Valid 7 a.m. Eastern

Statistics type: ☒ Traditional (D0-D4, D1-D4, etc.) ☐ Categorical (D0, D1, etc.)

Drought Condition (Percent Area):

Week	Date	Nothing	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	4/1/2014	0.00	100.00	99.81	95.21	68.76	23.49
Last Week	3/25/2014	0.00	100.00	99.80	95.21	71.78	23.42
3 Months Ago	12/31/2013	2.61	97.39	94.25	87.53	27.59	0.00
Start of Calendar Year	12/31/2013	2.61	97.39	94.25	87.53	27.59	0.00
Start of Water Year	10/1/2013	2.63	97.37	95.95	84.12	11.36	0.00
One Year Ago	4/2/2013	0.00	100.00	48.38	24.22	0.00	0.00

[View More Statistics](#)

### Intensity:

- D0 - Abnormally Dry
- D1 - Moderate Drought
- D2 - Severe Drought
- D3 - Extreme Drought
- D4 - Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying [text summary](#) for forecast statements.

### Author(s):

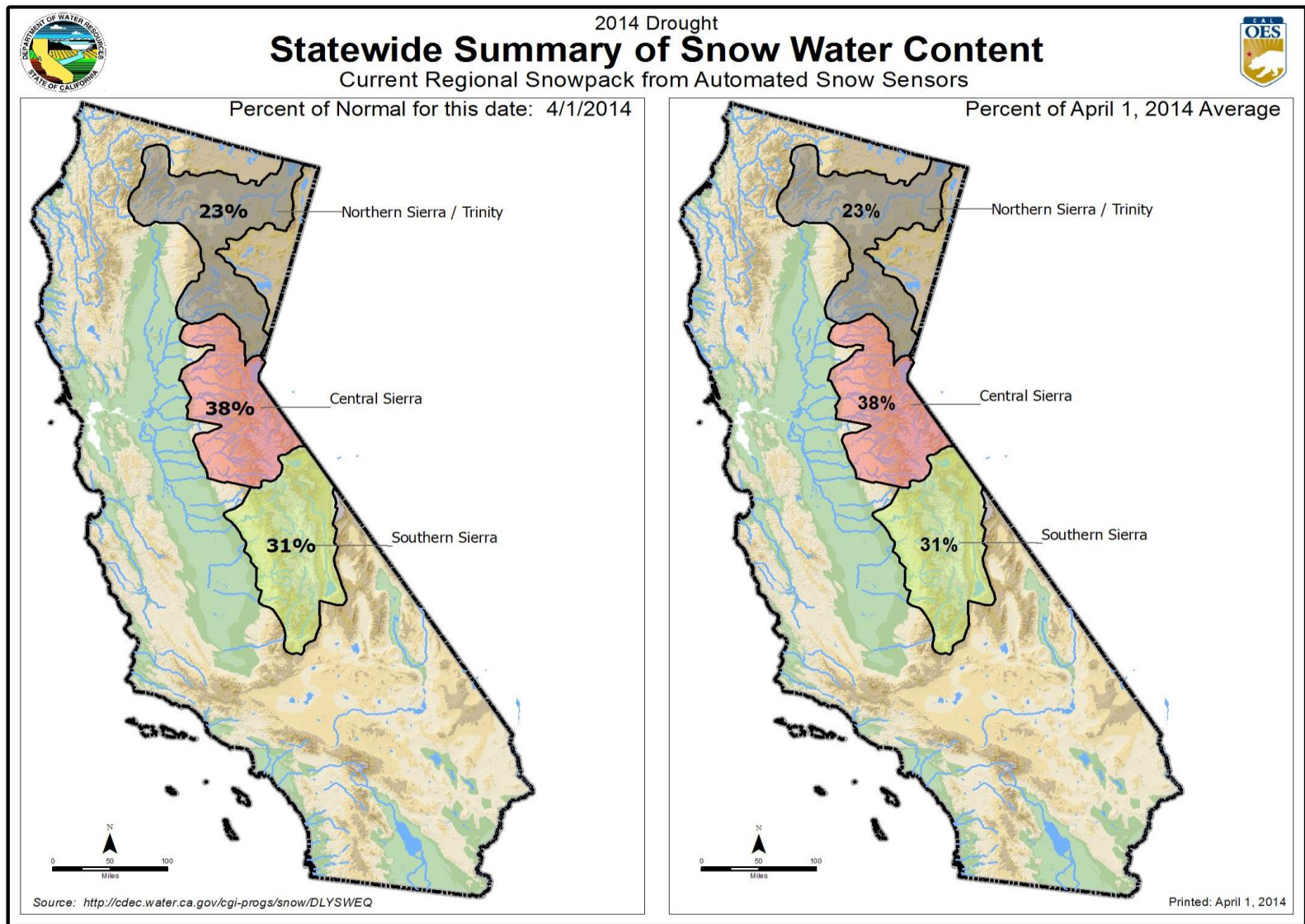
David Simeral, Western Regional Climate Center

The D4 (Exceptional Drought) is the worst drought category on the Drought Monitor and **the first time it's been used in California since this monitoring system started in 2000.** The degradation was made due to historically low rainfall amounts so far this winter, long-term precipitation deficits stretching several years, and a growing number of increasingly significant drought impacts. **In addition, 68% of California is now covered by D3/D4 conditions.**

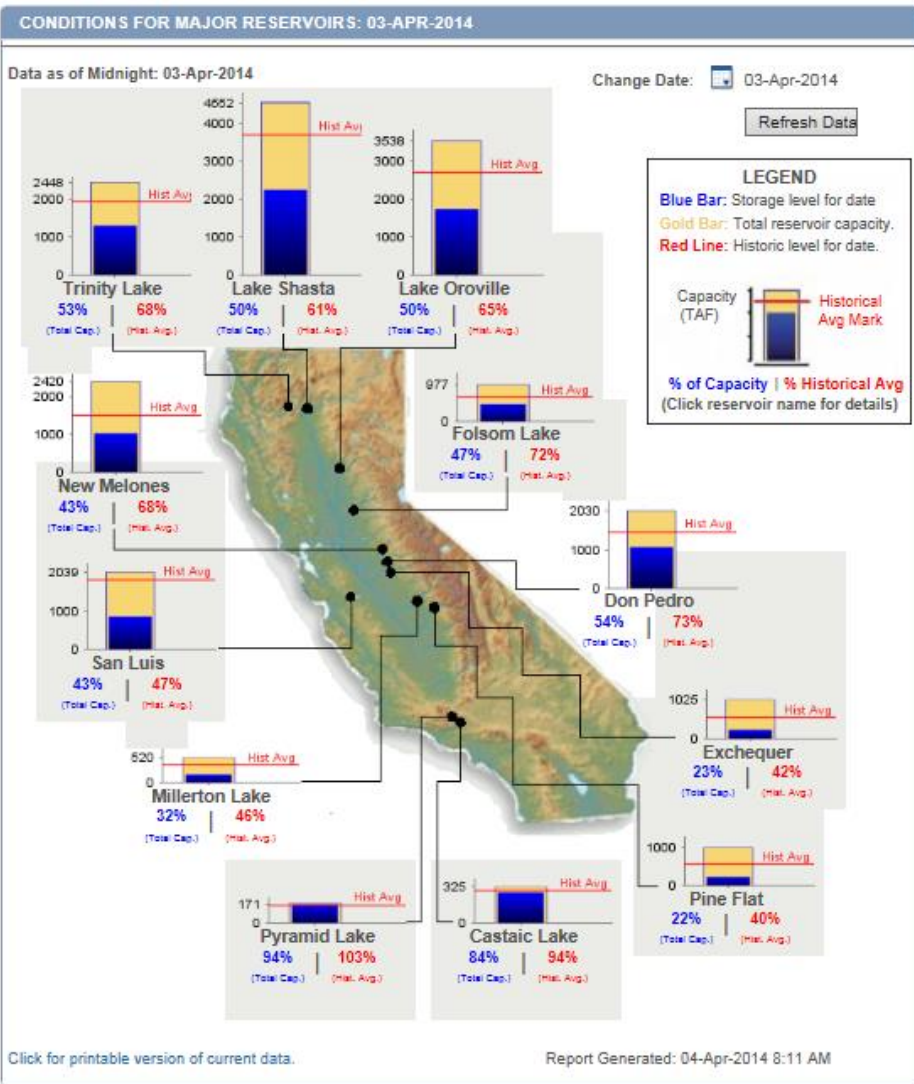
Note: Updated Weekly

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/Home/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?CA>

<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/sto/droughtca.php>







## Reservoir Levels

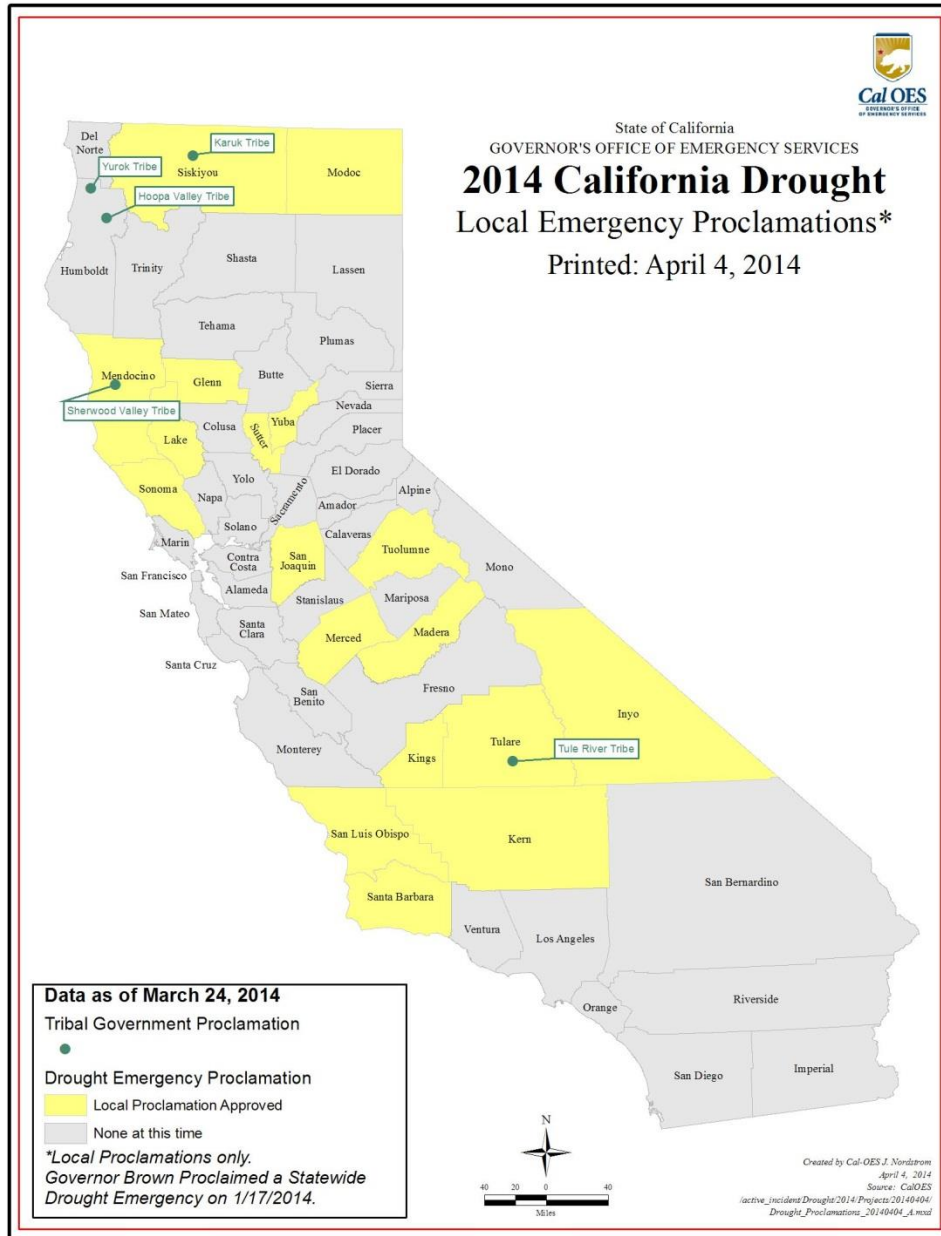
Many parts of California -- including Sacramento and Los Angeles -- marked calendar year 2013 as the driest on record. These extremely dry conditions follow two previous dry years statewide.

Storage in the reservoirs that typically help California cope with dry weather are well below average for this time of year.

River levels are low around the state. Along the North Coast, the Russian River, and the upper Sacramento River, levels are at their lowest points ever for this time of year.

Some water districts with a diversified portfolio of water sources and ample storage -- such as the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, which serves 19 million people -- are prepared to weather a third dry winter.

Farmers who depend heavily on the State's two biggest water projects, the Central Valley Project and State Water Project, face minimal and uncertain supplies.



## Proclamations

### State

1/17/14 Governor Edmund G. Brown proclaimed a State of Emergency

### Counties

Glenn (1/22/14)  
Inyo (1/29/14)  
Kern (1/14/14)  
Kings (1/14/14)  
Lake (1/17/14, ratified 3/4/14)  
Madera (1/17/14)  
Mendocino (1/7/14)  
Merced (2/25/14)  
Modoc (3/4/14)  
San Joaquin (2/25/14)  
San Luis Obispo (3/11/14)  
Santa Barbara (1/17/14)  
Siskiyou (3/11/2014)  
Sonoma (2/25/14)  
Sutter (2/11/14)  
Tulare (2/4/14)  
Tuolumne (2/4/14)  
Yuba (2/18/14)

### Tribal

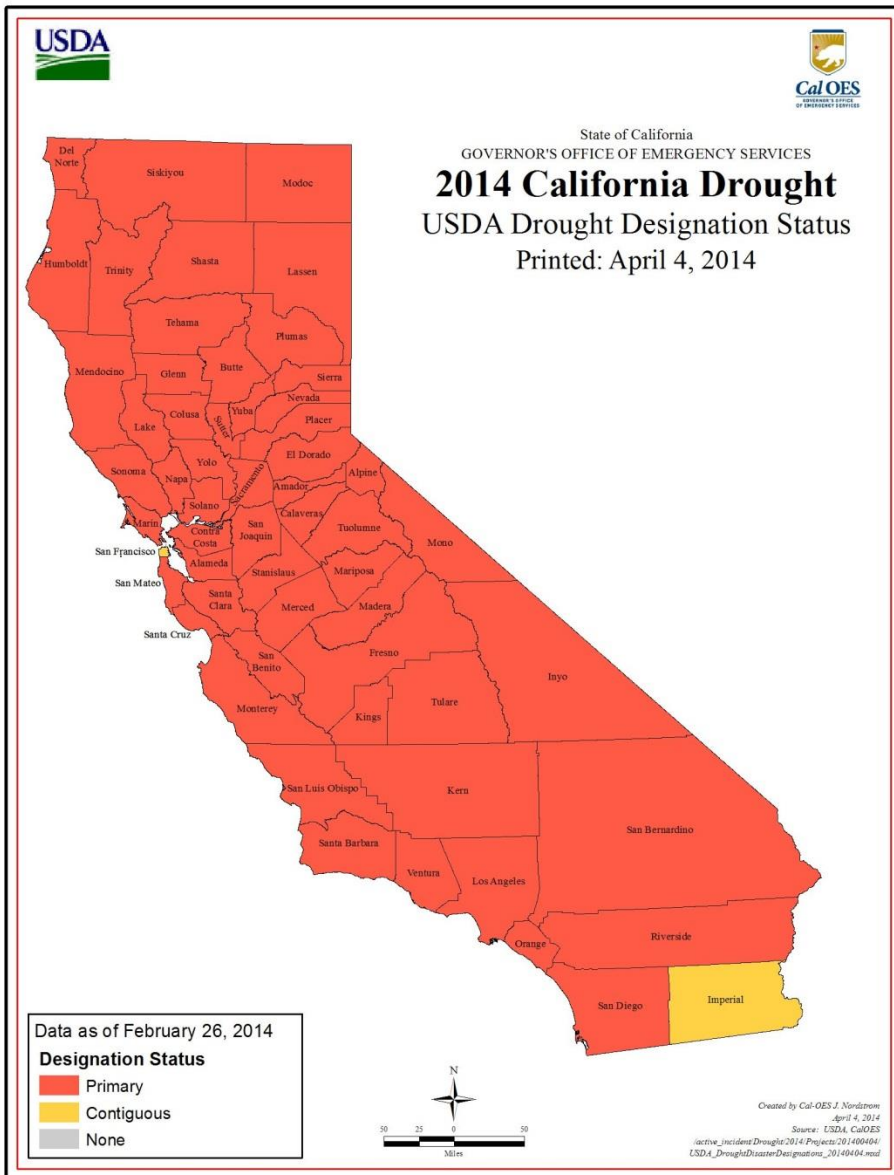
Hoopa Valley Reservation (1/20/14)  
Sherwood Valley Pomo Indian Tribe (2/19/14)  
Yurok Reservation (1/29/14)  
Tule River Indian Tribe (1/30/14)  
Karuk Tribe (2/18/14)

### Federal

None



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## USDA Disaster Designation

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) issued a secretarial disaster designation identifying 56 of 58 counties in California as primary natural disaster areas due to drought and 2 contiguous counties. This means that every county in California is now eligible to receive assistance.

# USDA Disaster Designation – Individual Assistance

Information as of 3/7/14

